



SITUATION REPORT #143

INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: January 28, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4400
Recovered	4118
Deaths	44
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	9
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	4
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) update at DOH	49,560
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	227
College Place	542
Dixie	20
Prescott	91
Touchet/Lowden	65
Waitsburg	65
Walla Walla	3390
Total	4400



SITUATION REPORT #143



Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		554
20-39		1839
40-59		1299
60-79		546
Over 80		162
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1822
Male		2578
TOTAL		4400

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/03/2021 - 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2nd
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:



SITUATION REPORT #143

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 02/01/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-202111511290	1/15/20	WWCEM Consolidated Tier 1	Delivered
WA-202111511304	1/15/21	WWCEM BYD Mask Request	Delivered

January 28, 2021

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH)/Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
- PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- EMS first responders have gone through PSMMC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.



SITUATION REPORT #143

- PSMMC stated that previous experience gained in working with WWDCH and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Federal government passes continued COVID relief funding and individual assistance.
- The Partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- DCH/PSMMC partnership for Community provider vaccination clinic (continuing phase 1a and now moving into phase 1b) is working well. PSMMC has done a great job vaccinating internally and providing vaccine to others who are eligible.
- Yakima Valley Family Medical Center received 30 vaccines and were able to vaccinate all their staff.
- Partnership with WWEM to implement use of [Washington State Emergency Worker program](#) for volunteer medical personnel and other mass immunization clinic volunteers.
- [Flu cases are below average](#), reducing the load on healthcare systems; PSMMC reports only 2 positive flu tests (with no decrease in flu testing). We would have normally had 100s.
- PSMMC had great success with vaccinating the first responder community.
- Just in time COVID immunization on Monday, Martin Luther King holiday, got 900 immunizations administered.
- Timely delivery of press release for Saturday's, Feb 23rd, immunization clinic.
- Delivery of 1002 COVID vaccines at Saturday's, Feb. 23rd, immunization clinic.
- **College Place Public schools have opened with not COVID cases.**

3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 4400
 - ❖ Recovered: 4118
 - ❖ Active: 282
 - 229 in-home isolation
 - 13 hospitalized 9 in-county residents, 4 out of county residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 44
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
 - ❖ 27 incarcerated active
 - ❖ 2 staff active
 - DOH negatives: 49,444
 - Rate per 100K: 732 (includes WSP cases), community rate without WSP is 467 per 100K
 - **TRENDS**
 - ❖ Concern some household and family members deciding not to get tested, therefore true disease activity may be skewed
 - ❖ Gatherings of 5 – 25 people
 - ❖ Traveling – local interstate for sports tournaments, interstate and international.
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.



SITUATION REPORT #143

- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle shortage continues to be an issue across the state; SEOC does not have them on hand.
- Continued concerns about regionalized Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan. County-by-county seemed to make sense; concerns about being lumped in with other counties, especially with counties that have not done well. There is frustration that locals did not get to have input into the regionalization decision. [Union Bulletin editorial](#) published on Sunday, 1/10.
- DCH experiencing large number of calls from residents interested in receiving COVID vaccine.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Issues with reestablishing licenses for retired medical personnel to use them at the mass vaccination clinic. Assistance needed from State DOH to speed up getting licenses restored given the current state of emergency.
- Confirmation of the [UK COVID-19 variant in Washington State](#).
- Forecast for intermittent snow/freezing fog throughout the week.
- Logistical challenges to meet new requirement that 95% of allocation is used up to take delivery of additional vaccine.
- Ability of Spanish-language population and those who do not have technology to complete registration process for vaccine.
- Family Medical Center and Walla Walla Clinic have been approved to receive vaccine but have not received any vaccine yet. This would help take some of the burden off the mass immunization clinics.
- Inconsistent vaccine allocation. Concern for reduced allocation of vaccine because of prioritization of regional hubs. Not everyone can travel to the hub for their immunization.
- Additional traffic and security concerns due to high profile Superior Court trial that will be held at the same location as the COVID clinic, Walla Walla County Fairgrounds.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.



SITUATION REPORT #143

- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Bi-weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:
 - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
 - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
 - **Bi-weekly (change from weekly)** workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program. **Additional volunteers needed for traffic control. SAR will be working at the Fairgrounds to assist. WWPD has communicated that there is retiree interest.**
- **DCH submitting their COVID vaccination plan to the State on Friday.**
- **VAMC hoping to have 300+ doses of Moderna arriving.**
- **DCH working to get information out about upcoming clinic activity and address inequities in the signup process.**

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:



SITUATION REPORT #143

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office